4/2/72

Dear Harry,

Unless they are going to do a Dita Beard special, CBS has more than 75% of Mike Wallace's interview with her unaired. It would be interesting to see the transcript, if it can be had. Although Wallace effected the role of tough cross-examiner, he wasn't. One of the more glaring examples is his bland acceptance of her claim to have had not a word, which I think is a direct quote, from ITT and they are providing her lawyer! (If she is later asked, she'll say she meant the boss only.) God knows what missed items there may be for with each open mouth more spills out and there is new contradiction.

I don't know the air routes in that part of the country, but it would seem that with the places going to the far upper nprthwest from New York (or Washington if she went back there), Denver would not seem to be on the direct route. She says again that she was going to Montana to visit a friend and think the thing through. I don't remember any friend announcing, "Yeah, and I couldn't wait until my old pal got here."

There seems to be too much over-reacting here. Scott has gotten out-of-character. Kleindienst is not enough to have asked for the unnecessary appearance before Judiciary, but I find it hard to believe he did it without consultation, so he had help in his over-reactions. Why? The most obvious possibility is fear of what could yet be said and done and anxiety to lay the whole thing to rest and get the confirmation approved. There would have been little chance of impeachment and not much more of continuing press reaction, on this scale, that is.

I missed the first part of 60 Minutes because I was painting a cart I'm having to make to carry some of the things I've been carrying and because it is getting to bit too much for me to use the wheelbarrow on these hills. However, I think there were further contradictions at the beginning, snatches of which I heard while washing enamel off my hands.

She has a remarkable heart condition. It belongs in some books, not necessarily medical. Appearing before the committee was too much for her, so she had oxygen tubes in her nostrils, doctors standing by and a lawyer to direct them to permit the examination to continue after heart-attack signals were recorded. If you missed it, the same thing, without the props, had happened but two days earlier, in a TIME interview. So, with this more serious one, she checks out of the hospital, heavily medicated (I think she used the description heavy dose for whatever was given her), has this hour-and-a-half interview outside the hospital, then checks back into it.

This is the most unusual medical standard since Oswald was given external heart massage when he had a wound for which it was counter-indicated and then the oxygen mask was kept on when he tried to take it off. With it on he couldn't talk, could he? He made a real try, too.

And did you know that the mouth-to-mouth resucitation allegedly given Malcolm X was by the bodyguard who, it turns out, was a police informer?

If nothing else can be said for our medicine, it is consistent!

Best,